

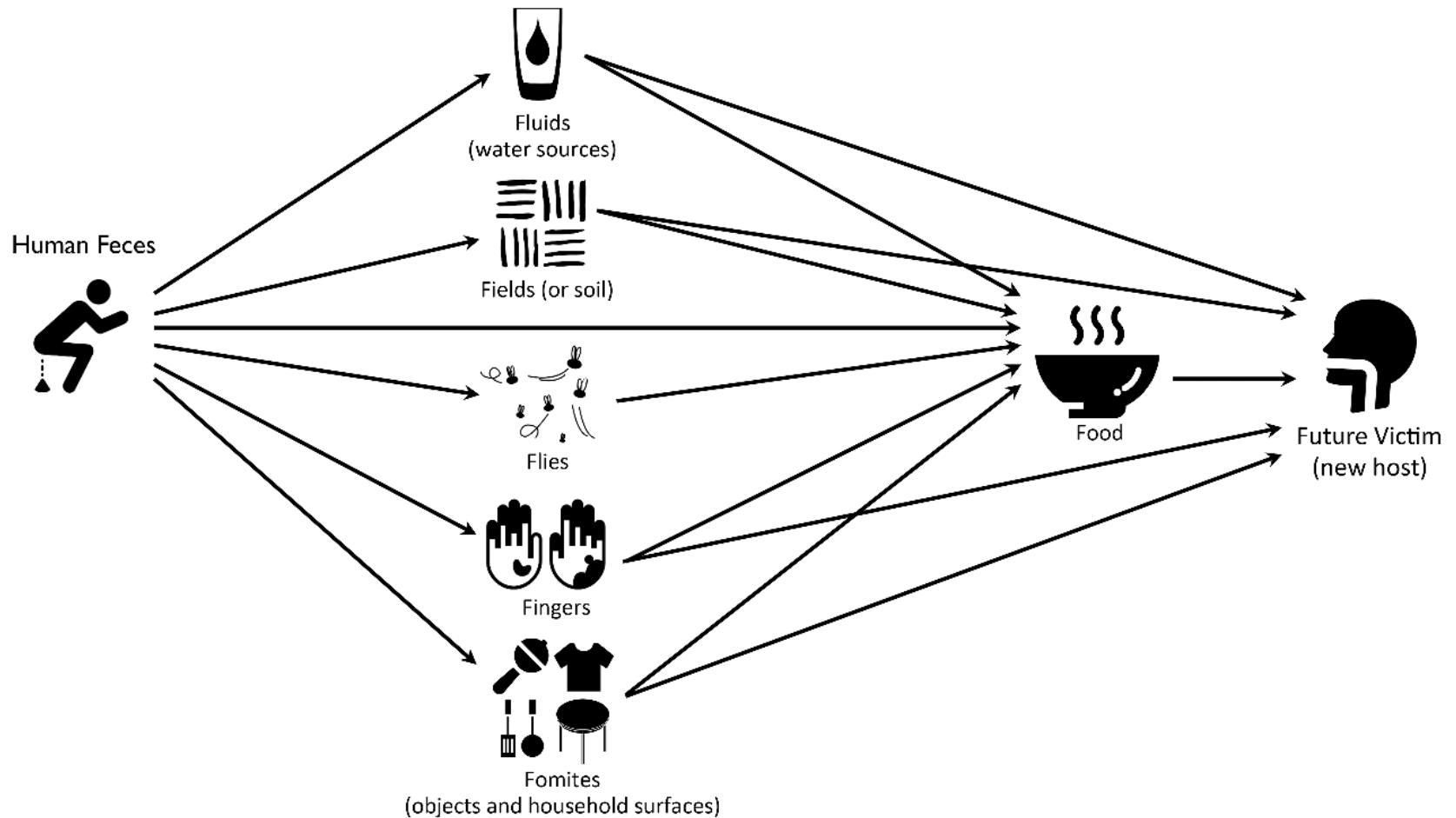
Understanding Barriers to Conducting Sexual History Interviews During Enteric Disease Investigations

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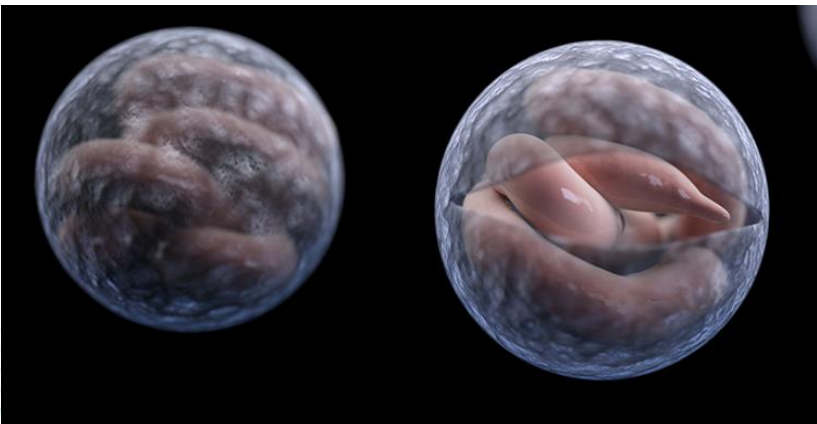
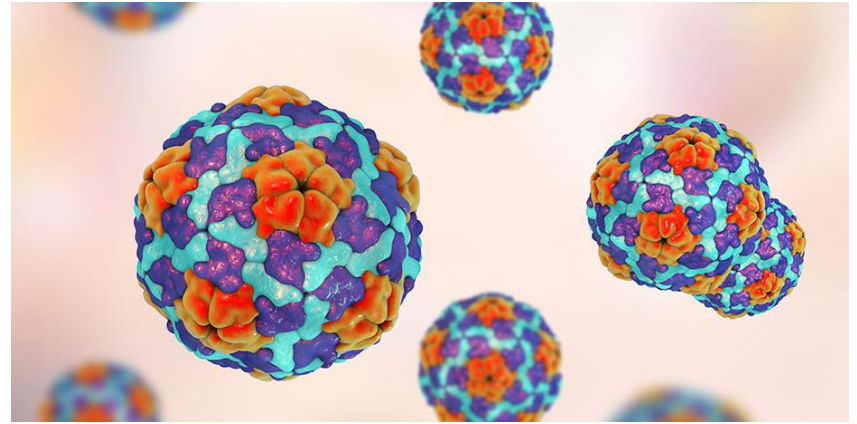


Indiana State
Department of Health

Background



Background




Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention²⁻⁴

Background

“Certain sexual activities put individuals at high risk of receiving/transmitting [enteric condition]. It is important to capture this information to understand both the rates of foodborne and sexually transmitted [enteric condition] in Indiana.”

Hepatitis A

What is the sexual preference of the patient?: 


Note: If unknown enter -999.

How many male sex partners did the patient have?:

How many female sex partners did the patient have?:


Regardless of patient's gender, list number of sexual partners


Cryptosporidiosis
Giardiasis
Shigellosis

Have sexual contact?: Yes 

Male:

Female:

No Sexual Partners: 

Sexual History Unknown: 

Purpose

1 Assess knowledge of enteric disease transmission through sexual activity

2 Identify barriers to asking patients about their sexual history during interviews



Methods

The enteric team for the Epidemiology Resource Center at Indiana State Department of Health would like feedback regarding foodborne/waterborne investigations. Your responses will help us improve the case investigation process.

1. In which county do you work?

Other (please specify)

2. What is your position/title?

* 3. Which of the following diseases are you responsible for completing case investigations? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Hepatitis A
- ☐ Shigellosis
- ☐ Cryptosporidiosis
- ☐ Giardiasis
- ☐ None of the above

4. In your opinion, is there a benefit to asking about a patient's sexual history during a gastrointestinal illness case investigation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Do you currently ask about patient's sexual history during case investigations for hepatitis A, shigellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and/or giardiasis?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Which of the following sexual practices have a risk of transmitting gastrointestinal illness?

☐ oral sex

☐ anal sex

☐ vaginal sex

7. What barriers do you encounter when approaching the topic of a patient's sexual history? Check all that apply.

☐ Uncomfortable asking number of sexual partners

☐ Uncomfortable asking gender of sexual partners

☐ Patient is not forthcoming

☐ Lack of time

☐ Health department policy to not ask

☐ Doesn't seem relevant

Other (please specify)

Methods

Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC) enteric team administered a survey to local health department staff.

**Public Health
Nurse Conference**

• May 8-9, 2019

Survey Deadline

• May 31, 2019

Emailed Survey

• May 15, 2019



Methods

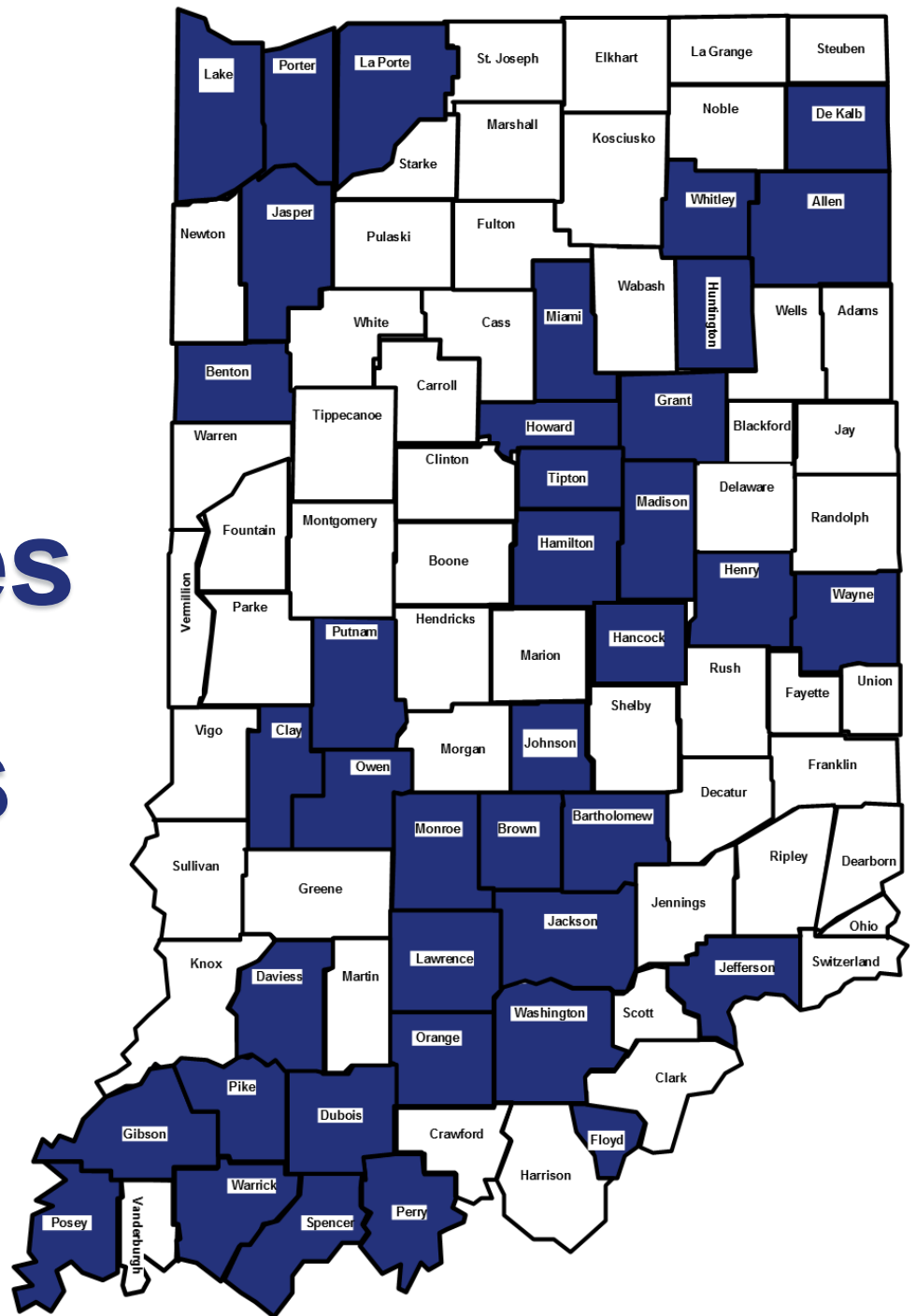
- Survey was administered electronically through SurveyMonkey
- Total of 92 responses from 47 reported counties
- Survey data was numerically coded and entered into statistical software for data analysis

Exclusions

Exclusion Criteria	Number Excluded
Duplicate	22
Does not complete enteric investigations	5
Blank Responses	14

51 Responses

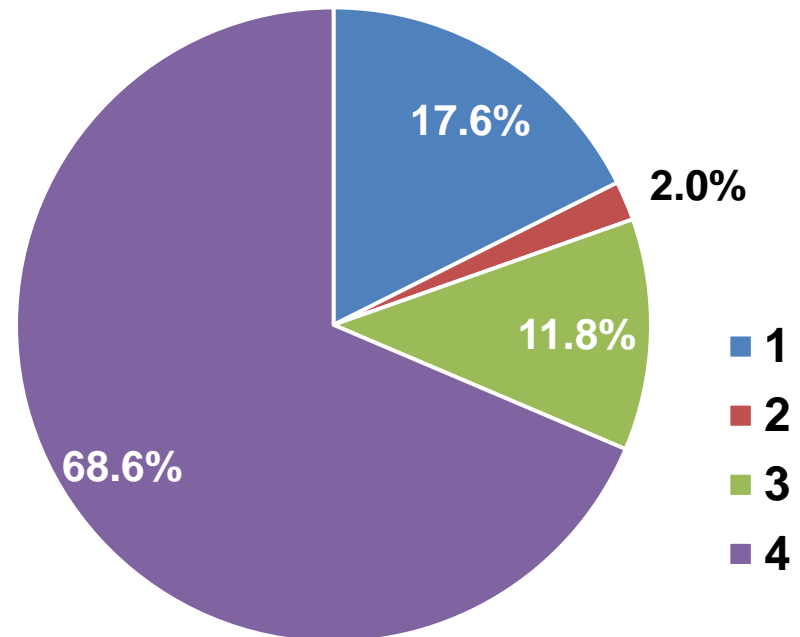
39 Counties



Results

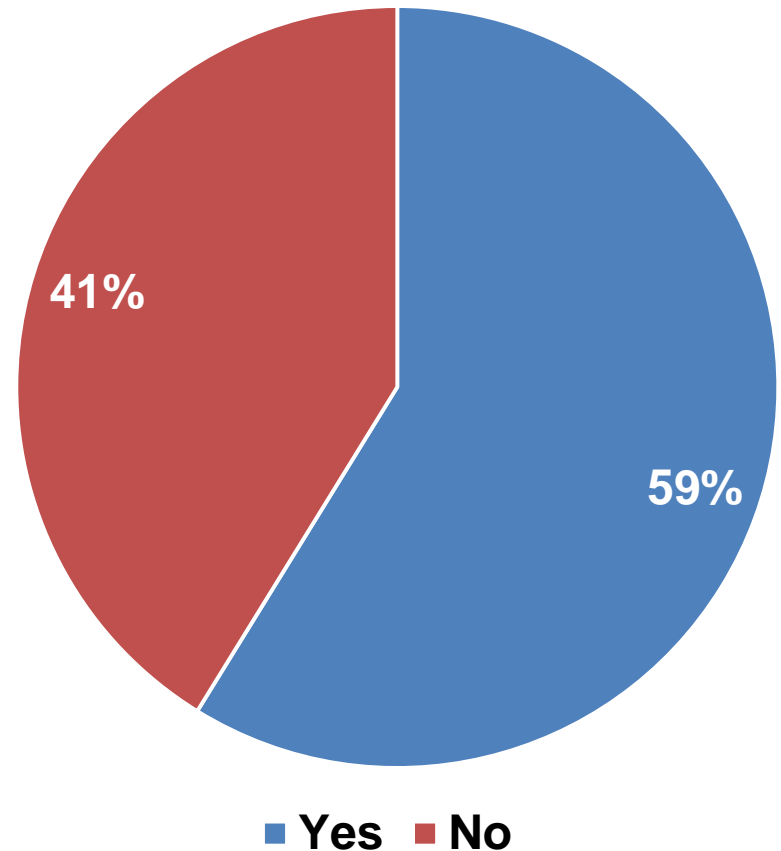
- More than two-thirds of respondents report completing case investigations for all 4 conditions

Hepatitis A	98%
Cryptosporidiosis	80%
Giardiasis	78%
Shigellosis	74%



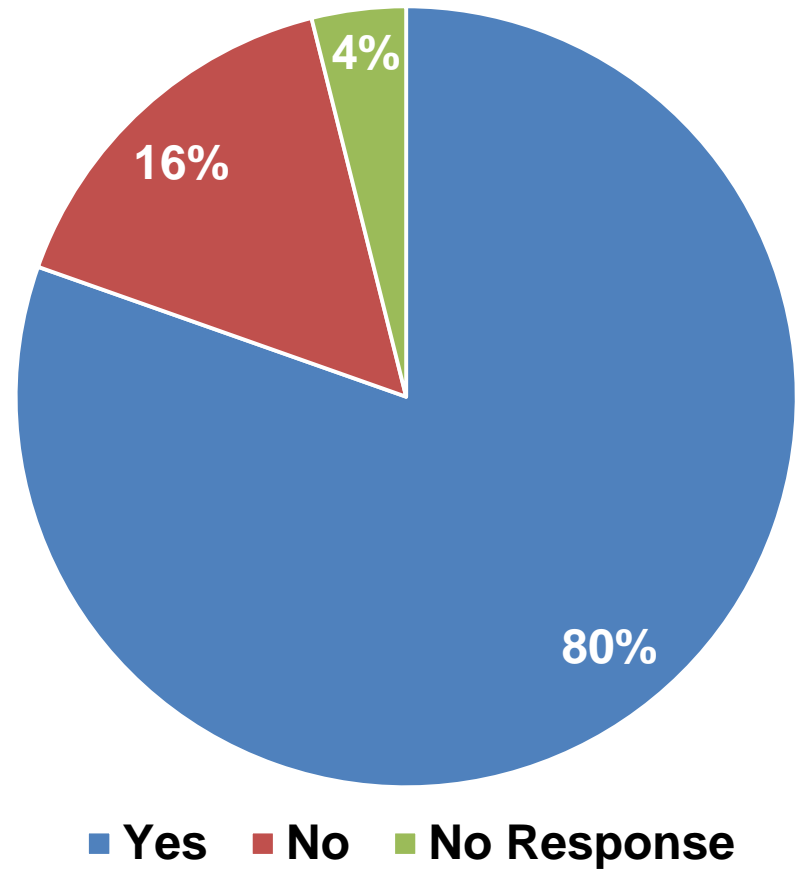
Results

In your opinion, is there a benefit to asking about a patient's sexual history during a gastrointestinal illness case investigation?



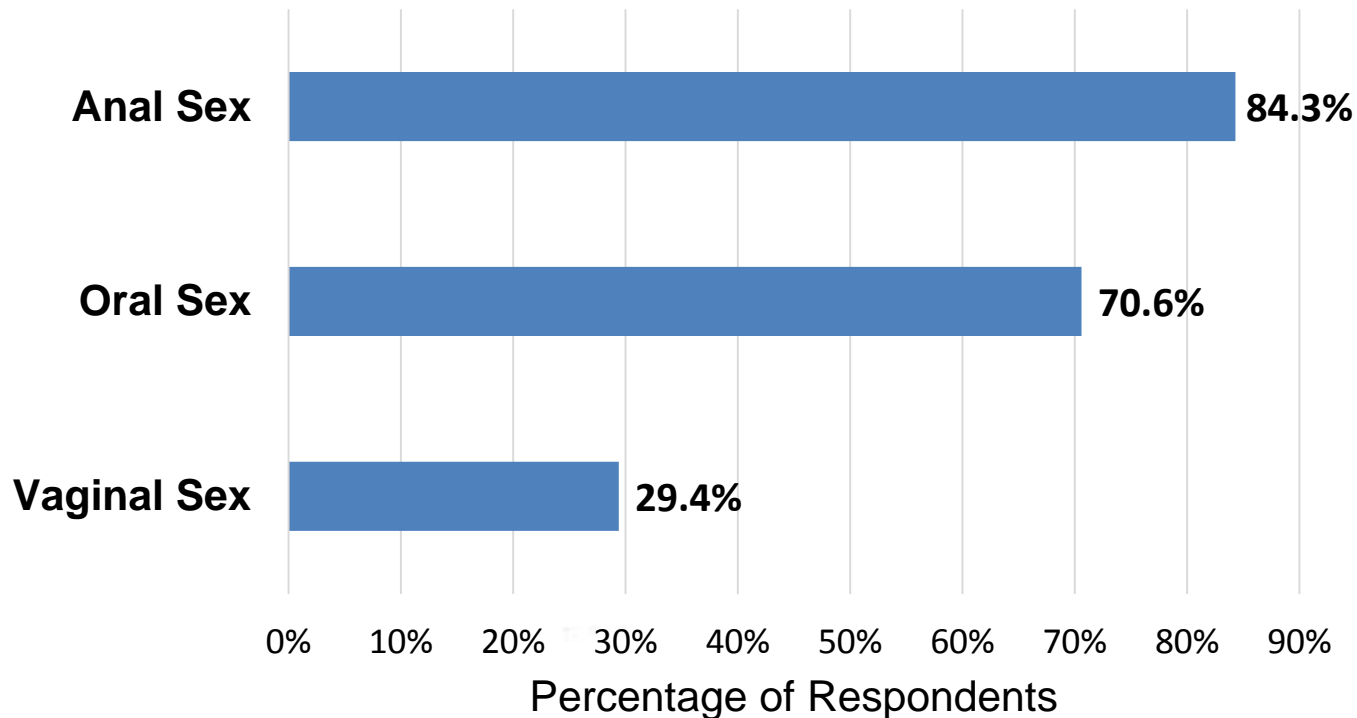
Results

Do you currently ask about patient's sexual history during case investigations for hepatitis A, shigellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and/or giardiasis?



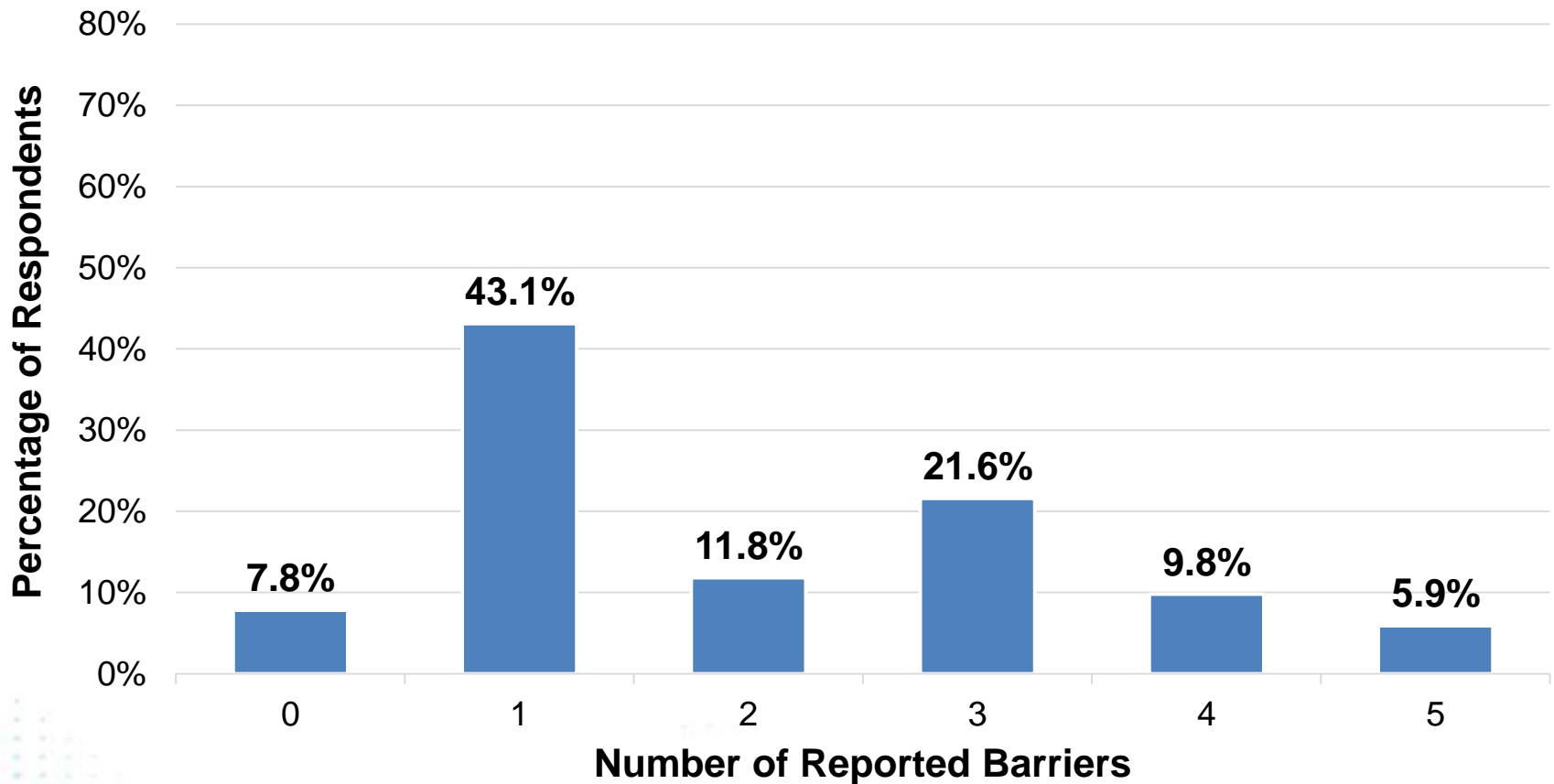
Results

Respondents selected types of sexual activity that pose a risk of transmitting GI illness



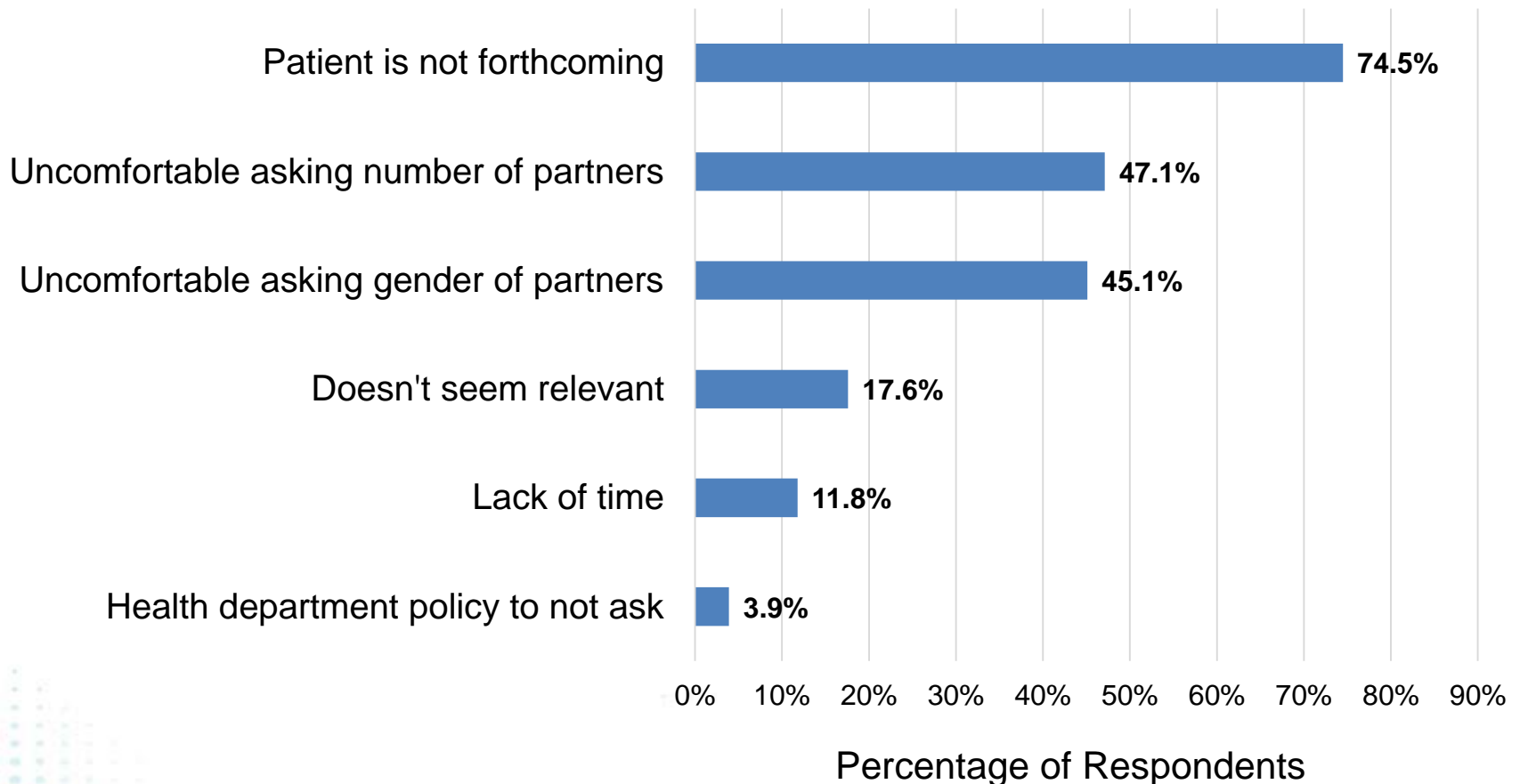
Results

Sexual History Question Barriers



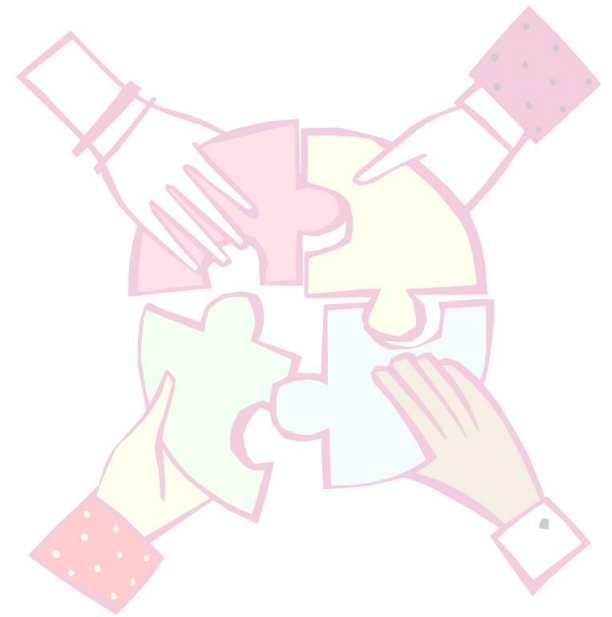
Results

Sexual History Question Barriers



Conclusion

- Though only about half of respondents think obtaining sexual history is beneficial, 80% report asking during a case investigation
- Almost all investigators report at least one barrier during interviews



Next Steps

- Provide additional education on sexually-transmitted enteric infections
 - MSM-specific considerations
- Identify resources to address patient discomfort





Questions?

References

1. Penakalapati, G., Swarthout, J., Delahoy, M. J., Mcaliley, L., Wodnik, B., Levy, K., & Freeman, M. C. (2017). Exposure to Animal Feces and Human Health: A Systematic Review and Proposed Research Priorities. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 51(20), 11537–11552. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.7b02811
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